



CITY OF MILWAUKIE

"Dogwood City of the West"

STATE of the CITY ADDRESS

2012 – Delivered by Mayor Jeremy Ferguson

State of the Cities Luncheon Remarks for Jan. 24, 2012

Direction from Chamber:

On January 25, the Mayors of Milwaukie, Happy Valley, Damascus, Gladstone, and Oregon City will share the 2011 accomplishments and 2012 goals for their communities that impact business and livability.

Accomplishments

- Received the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for its Fiscal Year 2012 Budget from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada.
- In order to receive the award an entity must satisfy nationally recognized guidelines for budget presentation.
- The guidelines are designed to assess how well an entity's budget serves as: a policy document, a financial plan, an operations guide, and a communications device.
- The City completely reformatted its Fiscal Year 2012 Budget to make it more accessible, informative, and easier to read, and winning this award, proves our team was successful in meeting these objectives.
- *Other Notes to consider:*
 - *Issuing quarterly financial budgets and just published a Budget Report that puts in simple terms our residents, and Mayor, can understand.*
 - *Effort to save more money, innovative sharing Finance Directors.*
 - *We've come a long way and our financial house is in order.*

Façade Improvement Program

- A little money can go a long way ...
- Last spring we launched the Façade Improvement Grant Program for our Downtown Businesses.

- Partnering with Metro, we made \$50,000 available to property owners for building improvements that make downtown Milwaukie a more attractive, pleasant and vibrant place.
- To date, \$7,848 of the \$50,000 has been committed to storefront improvement projects.
- Don't know how many downtown business owners we have in the crowd, but if you are one, applications must be submitted by February 20, 2012, for review in March.

Economic Development Grant

- Another program City Council initiated last year is the Economic Development Grant Program.
- This is a short-term grant program designed to help offset public area requirement costs.
- The program made \$20,000 available to downtown property owners to help pay for streetscape elements that new development sometimes requires, such as trees, street furniture, sidewalk improvements and ornamental lighting.
- The program will close on July 1, 2012, or when all of the money is allocated.

Business Enterprise Zone

- And the last program I'd like to share is the City's establishment of a Business Enterprise Zone.
- This tax abatement program provides a financial incentive for industrial businesses to expand their facilities, invest in machinery, and hire new employees.
- By meeting certain benchmarks, companies can earn the right NOT to pay taxes on new investment over a 3-year or 5-year period.
- Just to give you a sense, some of the benchmarks include:
 - Invest at least \$25,000 in expanding its industrial capacity.
 - Increase its permanent, full time employment by 10% and maintain it for 3 years.
 - Pay the new employees at least 150% of the state minimum wage (\$12.60 per hour). Benefits can be used to reach this pay level.

Goals for 2012

- In 2012 we're going to continue our pursuit of landing a minor league professional baseball team.

- Last winter we spent a lot of time out in the community learning the questions and concerns people had, and we undertook a feasibility study for the site we have in mind – the ODOT yard on McLoughlin Boulevard, just south of the Springwater Corridor Bridge.
- The site works, and people are excited to learn more, so we're moving forward.
- Phase II activities include:
 - Continue the public outreach effort, with a focus on gathering and sharing answers to the community questions and concerns that were raised in Phase I.
 - Create a citizen Task Force to help guide and inform the process.
 - Move from site feasibility analysis to developing a conceptual design.
 - Finalize a program of uses for the facility.
 - Refine costs, and in turn, conduct a financial impact analysis.
 - Begin formal negotiations with the Northwest League.
- Staff will come back to City Council in April with a report on Phase II, and to seek further direction on whether or not to move forward with the project
- This is incredibly exciting work, and as a Council, we think this is an Economic Development project of the highest caliber.

Other Notes:

Bob's Red Mill

Recognize the organization – turning it over to his employees